

ABSTRACT

Echinacea preparations having standardized chicoric acid levels and inducing an augmented level of immune-stimulatory activity. Augmentation of the immune stimulatory activity is achieved by the selection of a harvest time for *Echinacea* plants that is during a plant maturation stage that is prior to full bloom. Methods for augmenting the immune-stimulatory effects of *Echinacea* extracts by harvesting *Echinacea* plants prior to full bloom.